

The Gender Gap

I WAS INTRIGUED TO SEE NANCY GIBBS' article on affirmative action for boys, "College Confidential," but a bit disappointed that Ms. Gibbs avoided the greater question about what is happening to boys [April 14]. Rather than question what might be behind the slide in boys' achievement—and what the long-term effect might be if boys continue to fall behind—the article instead turns to ponder what this all means for girls. It is a sad commentary when even an article about boys' academic troubles seems uninterested in the roots of the problem.

Malia Blom, Director, Boys and Schools
WASHINGTON

I AM A HIPPIE GRANDPARENT WHOSE children are pushing their girls to achieve and who still just expect the boys to do well. Does this mean I'm a misogynist or a feminist?

Greg Jensen, EULESS, TEXAS

The Price of Luxury

ARE YOU PEOPLE FOR REAL? UNEMPLOYMENT is high, gas prices are astronomical, and food prices are climbing, and what do you offer as an article but a report on \$40 bottled water and \$145 a bottle vinegar [April 14]. Honestly! Going out for us is lunch at a chain restaurant using coupons, and that doesn't happen often. We buy our clothes at Goodwill and discount stores. That \$120 spent on a single beer could have provided a family of four with food for a week. Why not do something that will make you feel a whole lot better: donate the money to your local food bank or battered women's shelter. That trumps the exquisite taste of the Best Butter on Earth any day.

Cheryl Norwood, CANTON, GA.

More on Biofuels

"THE CLEAN ENERGY MYTH" MISSES THE mark [April 7]. The one-sided and scientifically uninformed piece ignores the large potential of second- and third-generation biofuels to reduce greenhouse gases and the ability of modern agriculture to responsibly manage land use. The *Science* magazine article (by Searchinger et al) on which TIME relies has been thoroughly rebutted by leading scientists at the Department of Energy's Argonne National

Laboratory. TIME owes its readers the totality of facts to avoid misinformation. For many decades, the U.S. has worked with farmers and the scientific community to increase crop yields, reduce the intensity of pesticide and fertilizer use, improve water productivity and promote conservation tillage that reduces erosion and sequesters carbon. Substantial progress continues in all these areas and was not sufficiently addressed. Last year alone our agencies invested more than \$1 billion in research, development and demonstration of next-generation-biofuels production from nonfood feedstocks, which remains the core U.S. strategy. Our government is committed to advancing technological solutions to promote and increase the use of clean, secure, abundant, affordable and domestic alternative solutions.

Ed Schafer, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Secretary, and Samuel W. Bodman,
U.S. Department of Energy Secretary
WASHINGTON

IT IS WRONG TO ATTRIBUTE A SIGNIFICANT part of the increase in Amazon deforestation to biofuels, as Mr. Grunwald does. First, suggestions that Brazil is a major culprit in global warming are not supported by scientific facts or reliable

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

- A review of Martin Scorsese's documentary *Shine a Light* in the April 14 issue refers to Janis Joplin's performance in Michael Wadleigh's 1970 film *Woodstock*. Joplin did not appear in that documentary.
- Our April 14 toast to TIME's 85th birthday misspelled the first name of a TIME co-founder. He is Briton Hadden.

statistics. Second, the growth rate of Brazilian emissions has been on the decline primarily because of decreasing rates of Amazon rain-forest deforestation, which is the main source of carbon emissions in Brazil, and increasing use of ethanol fuel. Furthermore, from 1970 to 2005 the use of ethanol in our energy mix has averted the emission of 644 million tons of CO₂, the equivalent of Canada's annual emissions. When compared with the unsustainable energy patterns used in major developed countries, the Brazilian experience can be considered a model. Contrary to what the article claims, ethanol has been a central part of the solution.

Antonio de Aguiar Patriota
Ambassador of Brazil to the U.S.
WASHINGTON

'Joe Klein's litmus test for Obama's patriotism is disturbing. Love your country, yes. But to have to say, "This is the greatest country on earth"? Oh, puh-leeze.'

Mary Masters, SARREGUEMINES, FRANCE



Pledge of Allegiance Voters question whether Barack Obama should be pressed to prove his patriotism

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